



Talavera Junior School

Year 3 Newsletter

Spring 1 - Explorers and Explosions

Aspiration Integrity Resilience



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We hope that you have had a well-deserved break and we send you best wishes for the new year! This half-term, our topic is **Explorers and Explosions**. We will be investigating volcanoes and their impact on communities.

We will start the half-term by looking at the book '**Escape From Pompeii**' for our writing unit, exploring the devastating impact a volcanic eruption can have on a community. This may raise some questions regarding community safety around volcanoes. During our trip to the Natural History Museum, alongside a workshop on volcanoes and their impact on the world, children will have the opportunity to explore artefacts linked to the Pompeii disaster which will help to bring the book to life. We will be teaching it very sensitively but please be aware that your children may wish to discuss this further with you. If you would like any support with this, please let us know.

Volcanoes will also form the basis of our computing unit where we will be creating a stop frame animation film documenting a volcanic eruption.

In Science, we will explore the topic of Forces, including using magnets. At Talavera, PSHE underpins everything that we do. This half-term, we will be understanding how to maintain friendships. Within RE, we will be learning about Peace in the context of Buddhism. We will be visiting the Buddhist temple.

<p>Stimulus - Natural History Museum</p> <p>English: Escape From Pompeii Epos: The Flame Bird</p> <p>Whole school text: The Midnight Fair</p> <p>Class Reader: Fortunately, the Milk</p> 	<p>Science - Forces</p> <p>Computing - Stop Frame Animation/ Safer Internet Day</p> <p>French - Colours and Numbers</p> <p>Geography—Volcanoes</p> <p>Art—Mondrian</p>	<p>Indoor PE - Gymnastics</p> <p>Outdoor PE - Hockey</p> <p>RE: Peace</p> <p>PSHE - Maintaining friendships</p> <p>Music—Body Percussion</p>
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Year 3 KEY DATES:

- Monday 6th January:** INSET day
- Tuesday 7th January:** Children begin back at school
- Week commencing 13th January:** Integrity Week
- Wednesday 15th January:** Natural History Museum (4:30pm return to school)
- Friday 21st January:** Parents Vs Kids Rugby (Sign-up required)
- Week commencing 3rd February:** Parent IEP drop ins (times to be booked with class teachers)
- Tuesday 4th February:** Talavera Treat (selected children only)
- Tuesday 11th February:** Safer Internet Day

Natural History Museum Trip

On Wednesday 15th January, Year 3 will be travelling to London for a new school trip. We hope this will be a fantastic day for the children enabling them to learn more about their topic alongside other areas of interest they may have.

Please be aware that this is a longer day with children arriving to school earlier and leaving later. A reminder of all the details will be sent out this week on Arbor,

If you have not done so already, please could we ask that you ensure you have given permission on Arbor. If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher.



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Online Safety:

Some of your children may have received a device of some kind for Christmas. This can lead to fun and excitement but please remember the following three points.

Devices can significantly disrupt sleep patterns. Devices should be turned off **at least an hour** before the bedtime routine begins to allow children's brains to unwind.

Children are vulnerable to forming unhealthy relationships when playing in collaborative modes. Please ensure your child understands that they must never move to a private chat or to a different app with someone they don't know.

Games and platforms have a clear given age-rating. These are provided to keep children safe and to protect their mental wellbeing. We therefore ask, as parents and caregivers, that you are monitoring the games your children have access to ensuring it is suitable for their age.

As a school, we are always happy to offer assistance and advice on device usage and the importance of parental controls.

On Tuesday 11th February, children throughout the school will be participating in the Nationwide Safer Internet Day. We encourage you to ask your children about what they have learnt and the impact it will have on their online usage and behaviour.

Homework:

Parent support is crucial to a child's education. By working together, we can support your child to make great progress.

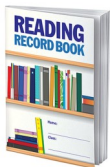
Here is a gentle reminder of the homework expectations as outlined in the school policy:

Spellings will be sent home on a Monday on a spelling label. **Children are tested on these words the next Monday.** We also ask that you continue to practise times tables recall with your children regularly using TT Rockstars and flash cards. Watch out for our TT Rockstar battles between classes!

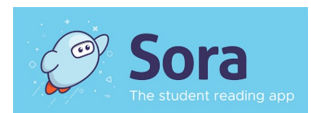
Finally, we ask that you ensure your child is reading either a school book or a book from home (if your child is a free reader) at least 3 times per week and that this is recorded in their reading record and signed by an adult. Reading diaries are checked every Monday by an adult in school so must be in school on this day at least.

Thank you in advance for your support and cooperation. If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

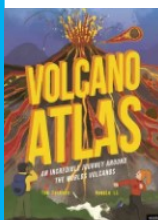
Reading



A polite reminder that your child should be reading at home at least 3 times a week and at least once a week to an adult. This is vital to support your child with their speed and fluency in turn preparing them for more challenging comprehension work in class. Please also ensure this is recorded in their diary so that the school can keep track of their progress. Aside from reading their school reading or library book, they can also record any other book they have read. SORA is an excellent resource that the children are already signed up to. If you cannot find your child's login, please ask their class teacher.



These are just a few of the books on SORA linked to our new topic for children to enjoy. Simply type 'Volcanoes' into the search bar and a wide selection of story and audio books will appear.





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Physical Education:

P.E. is a vital part of our curriculum, a government requirement and a subject our children enjoy. However, to ensure children are able to fully participate, it is vital that children remember their PE kit.

Although we understand some children wear their P.E. kit to clubs, their kit should be in school **every day**. Due to the time of year, Children may also wear plain running leggings/ joggers and a plain hoodie/ sweatshirt when outside.

<u>Axolotls</u>	<u>Blue Whales</u>	<u>Emperor Penguins</u>	<u>Green Turtles</u>
Friday (Indoor)	Wednesday (Indoor)	Wednesday (Indoor)	Wednesday (Indoor)
Thursday (Outdoor)	Friday (Outdoor)	Friday (Outdoor)	Friday (Outdoor)

UNIFORM

At Talavera, we continue to have high expectations for school uniform. Please ensure your child is following the correct dress code in line with our uniform policy.

Please see below some key reminders:



- Children are only permitted to wear one pair of earrings **which must be studs**. These **must be removed or covered with tape provided on PE days**.
- Children should be wearing black school trousers/ skirt/ dress daily. **Leggings and jogging bottoms are not permitted.**
 - Children should wear a white polo shirt which is different from their PE top.
 - Nail polish and temporary tattoos must be removed before coming to school.
 - Hair which is shoulder length or longer must be tied up.
- A red cardigan or jumper should be worn in school. **Hoodies are not part of the uniform policy.**
- Your child needs to wear plain, black shoes (not trainers).



Also, a reminder that as a school we do offer access to second-hand uniform. This is available throughout the year on request at the office.

This has been such a valuable resource for many families. However, to keep it a success we need donations. Donations of unneeded or outgrown uniform can be brought into the office or given to Miss Coombs at any point in the year. Please also remember if you are experiencing any difficulties with uniform including providing adequate coats and/or shoes that you speak to your child's class teacher or a member of office staff. We will always do what we can to help.